

LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1946.

In my report for 1945 I commented on the general national position in regard to food rationing and other restrictions expressing the hope, 'rather optimistically' that as time went on some improvement would occur: but we are still forced to live on hope and some on very little else. I refer particularly to a large number of old age pensioners living alone on a single ration book. I have frequently seen the very meagre week's supply of meat, fats Etc, that some of these have to exist on and have wondered how they manage to keep going. Surely something might be done by the government for these poor people. It will be contended that their pensions have been raised out what is the good of this if there is so little to spend the extra money on? Why cannot the old age pensioners have a special ration book like the children have?.

We are on the eve of many changes in the sanitary administration of this area due to the provisions of the National Health Service Act. Although, as a medical practitioner, I am not wholly in agreement with some of the provisions of the Act, there is one affecting the public health administration of this area which, in my opinion will in the long run prove beneficial. A Medical Officer of Health should be unhampered and able to carry out his duties without fear of reprisals. More than once in the course of my official duties I have been penalised by the loss of patients owing to doing my duty as your medical officer: this of course should not be and could not occur when there is a full-time official. I have heard it suggested that a medical officer, who is familiar with the district and the inhabitants, is better than one strange to both: this I am sure is not so. The ideal official is one who has only one axe to grind. There is another and more important reason why the change should be beneficial: public health work is now very complicated and will be more so as time goes on and for this reason its administration should be guided by one who has had the appropriate training for such work and who holds a diploma of public health, a distinction that I cannot lay claim to.

In my last report I commented on the undesirability of combining the two offices of Sanitary Inspector and Borough Surveyor and wish to again stress the urgency for a reform in this direction. As I then pointed out, it is the sanitary administration that is left in the lurch and continues to be so.

The social activities of the area are still maintained at a fairly high level, dances being held at least once a week. It would I think be to the physical advantage of the adolescents if they were given the opportunity to direct their activities into more healthful channels in the form of organised games in the open air for both sexes and the only way in which this can be attained is by the provision of a playing field large enough to allow two or three games to be played at the same time. I have for many years past been stressing this point because I feel sure that it is a matter which would, if implemented, be of great benefit to the adolescents of this area. If they were given such an opportunity of getting rid of some of their natural exuberance they might not be so likely to indulge in such mischievous undertakings as they so frequently do.

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SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	3050	acres
Population		2120	
Number of inhabited houses		681	
Rateable value		£8316.	
Sum represented by a 1d rate		£37. 10. 6d.	
<u>Live Births</u>	(legitimate	M 18	F 9) Total 27.
	(illegitimate	M 2	F 3)
Birth Rate per 1000 of population		12.73.	
Deaths of infants under 1 years		1 M.	
<u>Deaths</u> - 9 M, 18 F.		Total 27.	
<u>Death Rate</u> per 1000 of population		12.73.	

Causes of Death.

	M	F
Influenza	1	-
Cancer of Breast	-	1
Cancer of all other sites	2	3
Intracranial vascular lesions	1	5
Heart disease	3	6
Child Birth	-	1
Infantile disease	1	-
Violent causes	-	1
All other causes	1	1

The Birth and Death Rates of England and Wales were 19.1 and 11.5. respectively.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no change under this heading during the year under review.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. During the year 328 inspections of water supplies were made. A repetition of the difficulties which have occurred in previous years was again experienced during the summer and water had to be conveyed to high level properties for drinking and domestic purposes.

The new Churchpark Wood pumping scheme was almost completed during the year but was delayed considerably by reason of the required materials being in short supply (Since the close of 1946 this scheme has commenced to operate satisfactorily and the future outlook for the high level properties is much brighter.)

There are 72 properties in the borough not connected to the public supply and dependant for water upon wells and springs. These private supplies provide water to the agricultural area of the borough and are far from satisfactory. There is one stand-pipe situated at Maudlin.

During the year the Council has had under consideration the question of the De Lank Regional Water Scheme and the desirability of becoming a constituent member of the Mid-Cornwall Board. The report of the Ministry's Inspector on Cornwall's water supplies recommends the abandonment of the Maudlin source of supply and

supplying the existing reservoirs at this source from a trunk water main suggested to be brought along the Bodmin-Sweetshouse-Nomensland-Fowey Road route. For Lostwithiel to benefit from this proposal it would mean the provision of a new 6" pipe line from Maudlin to replace the existing badly corroded 4" main and even then the supply would be limited to the levels already supplied. It has been suggested from time to time that a new high level reservoir situated somewhere between Sweetshouse and Barngate and fed from the De Lank scheme would bring every hereditament in the borough within reach of a supply of water under pressure. The whole question is still under consideration, the governing factor being the financial one, a 1d rate representing £37. 10. 6d. There have been no bacteriological or chemical examinations of the piped supply during the year. One such examination of a private supply was made which showed evidence of pollution with surface organisms including a number of excremental types. It was pointed out to the tenant that better protection of the gathering ground should effect considerable improvement: this has been done but it is still not altogether satisfactory. As there has been no evidence of contamination by lead due to the plumbo-solvency of the waters, no action has been necessary.

Sanitary Inspections :- Thirty four nuisances were investigated and all were abated without resort to statutory action.

Schools:- There has been no change in the sanitary arrangements of the Council and Downend schools. The canteen arrangements at the former continue to be satisfactory in all respects except for the fact that the children have to eat their meals at their desks. I am informed that the County Education Authorities are taking steps to acquire land on which to erect a temporary dining hall which will eventually be replaced by a permanent building.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

During the year ten temporary houses were completed and all let to returned ex-service men. Substantial progress was made during the year on four of the ten permanent houses in the course of erection and it was hoped to have completed the four and had them let by the end of the year but, owing to the delivery of the steel window frames being held up, no permanent-type house was completed during the year.

The Council has negotiated for the acquisition of a further three acres of land for the erection of permanent houses and a scheme for its development is now in the course of preparation.

There is a waiting list of 76 for permanent houses and at the present rate of building it will be a considerable time before all these are accommodated. There are also many slum dwellers now occupying properties of a type suitable for slum clearance who will also have to be accommodated.

Seventy eight inspections of properties were made and one notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936 was served and the defects subsequently remedied.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Shops:- The following articles of food were condemned for the reasons stated. 2 tins of tinned meat, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. packet of suet, 1 tin of pilchards, 4 tins of fruit, 6 stones of hake, all because of decomposition: 150 lbs of maggoty lentils, 325 lbs of mildewed fruit, 28 lbs of mildewed dried fruit, 28 lbs of sugar damaged in transit, 1 carcass of mutton and viscera due to septicæmia,

1 carcase of mutton and viscera due to parturien fever, 3 carcasses of the same and 1 of veal due to dropsy and emaciation.

Dairies and Cowsheds:- 23 inspections have been made. A milk pasteurisation licence was renewed for a high tension pasteurisation plant.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

<u>Notifiable Diseases during the Year.</u>			
<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total deaths.</u>
Scarlet fever	2	nil	nil
Pneumonia	10	nil	nil
Puerperal pyrexia	2	nil	nil
Whooping cough	6	nil	nil
Diphtheria	1	1	nil.

TUBERCULOSIS

One new case was notified during the year. The number of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year was five of pulmonary and two of non-pulmonary.

(Signed) Fredk. H. Rudge.

Medical Officer of Health.

Presented to the Council.
5th August 1947.

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